

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An information transmission/reception method, comprising:

storing predetermined information in a transmission system and in a reception system, each piece of the predetermined information being associated with a transmission count of a calling signal;

selecting one piece of the information stored in the transmission system;

detecting the transmission count of a calling signal associated with the selected piece of information;

transmitting the calling signal to the reception system only a number of times that is equal to the detected transmission count;

counting the number of times the calling signal is received at the reception system to determine the transmission count of the received calling signals; and

retrieving from the predetermined information stored in the reception system a piece of information associated with the transmission count of the received calling signals;

wherein the predetermined information is appliance operation data for operating at least one household appliance in communication with the reception system, and wherein, for each such appliance, the appliance operation data is indicative of the appliance's type and at least one operation of the appliance;

the reception system identifies one of the household appliances and one operation of the identified appliance based on the retrieved piece of information and operates the identified appliance according to the identified operation;

the reception system detects whether or not the operated appliance has functioned properly and provides an

indication to the transmission system of whether or not the operated appliance has functioned properly;

when the reception system detects that the operated appliance has functioned properly, the reception system transmits to the transmission system a first number of calling signals indicating that the operated appliance has functioned properly; and

when the reception system detects that the operated appliance has not functioned properly, the reception system transmits to the transmission system a second number of calling signals indicating that the operated appliance has not functioned properly.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The information transmission/reception method according to claim 14, wherein the feedback information is a predetermined number of calling signals, one predetermined number of calling signals indicating that the household appliance has operated properly and another predetermined number of calling signals indicating that the household appliance has not operated properly.

6. (previously presented) The information transmission/reception method according to claim 1, wherein the step of counting comprises counting for n distinct instances, n being a positive integer, such that n transmission counts are generated, and wherein the step of retrieving comprises retrieving a piece of information associated with the n transmission counts the predetermined information is arranged in a data structure having n dimensions.

7. (currently amended) An information transmission method, comprising:

storing predetermined information in a transmission system, each piece of the predetermined information being associated with a transmission count of a calling signal;

selecting one piece of the information stored in the transmission system;

detecting the transmission count of a calling signal associated with the selected piece of information; and

transmitting the calling signal from the transmitting system to a reception system only a number of times that is equal to the detected transmission count;

wherein the predetermined information is appliance operation data for operating at least one household appliance at a remote location, and wherein, for each such appliance, the appliance operation data is indicative of the appliance's type and at least one operation of the appliance;

the reception system identifies one of the household appliances and one operation of the identified appliance based on the number of calling signals received at the reception system and operates the identified appliance according to the identified operation;

the reception system detects whether or not the operated appliance has functioned properly and provides an indication to the transmission system of whether or not the operated appliance has functioned properly;

when the reception system detects that the operated appliance has functioned properly, the reception system transmits to the transmission system a first number of calling signals indicating that the operated appliance has functioned properly; and

when the reception system detects that the operated appliance has not functioned properly, the reception system transmits to the transmission system a second number of calling signals indicating that the operated appliance has not functioned properly.

8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) The information transmission method according to claim 7, wherein each piece of the predetermined information is associated with n distinct transmission counts, n being a positive integer, wherein the step of detecting comprises detecting the n transmission counts of a calling signal associated with the selected piece of information, and wherein the step of transmitting comprises transmitting the calling signal from the transmitting system for n distinct instances, for each instance the calling signal being transmitted only a number of times that is equal to the respective transmission count the predetermined information is arranged in a data structure having n dimensions.

10. (currently amended) An information reception method, comprising:

storing predetermined information in a reception system, each piece of the predetermined information being associated with a transmission count of a calling signal;

counting a number of times a calling signal is transmitted from a transmission system to received at the reception system to determine[[d]] the transmission count of the received calling signals; and

retrieving from the predetermined information stored in the reception system a piece of information associated with the transmission count of the received calling signals;

wherein the predetermined information is appliance operation data for operating at least one household

appliance in communication with the reception system, and wherein, for each such appliance, the appliance operation data is indicative of the appliance's type and at least one operation of the appliance;

the reception system identifies one of the household appliances and one operation of the identified appliance based on the retrieved piece of information and operates the identified appliance according to the identified operation;

the reception system detects whether or not the operated appliance has functioned properly and provides an indication to the transmission system of whether or not the operated appliance has functioned properly;

when the reception system detects that the operated appliance has functioned properly, the reception system transmits to the transmission system a first number of calling signals indicating that the operated appliance has functioned properly; and

when the reception system detects that the operated appliance has not functioned properly, the reception system transmits to the transmission system a second number of calling signals indicating that the operated appliance has not functioned properly.

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) The information reception method according to claim 10, wherein the step of counting comprises counting for n distinct instances, n being a positive integer, such that n transmission counts are generated, and wherein the step of retrieving comprises retrieving a piece of information associated with the n transmission counts the reception system operates the household appliance according to the retrieved piece of appliance operation data.

13. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon a program executable by a computer for performing an information transmission method comprising the steps of an information transmission program, the information transmission program comprising:

accessing predetermined information stored in a memory, each piece of the predetermined information being associated with a transmission count of a calling signal;

selecting one piece of the information from the memory;

detecting the transmission count of a calling signal associated with the selected piece of information; and

transmitting the calling signal from a transmission system to a reception system only a number of times that is equal to the detected transmission count;

wherein the predetermined information is appliance operation data for operating at least one household appliance at a remote location, and wherein, for each such appliance, the appliance operation data is indicative of the appliance's type and at least one operation of the appliance;

the reception system identifies one of the household appliances and one operation of the identified appliance based on the number of calling signals received at the reception system and operates the identified appliance according to the identified operation;

the reception system detects whether or not the operated appliance has functioned properly and provides an indication to the transmission system of whether or not the operated appliance has functioned properly;

when the reception system detects that the operated appliance has functioned properly, the reception system transmits to the transmission system a first number of

calling signals indicating that the operated appliance has functioned properly; and

when the reception system detects that the operated appliance has not functioned properly, the reception system transmits to the transmission system a second number of calling signals indicating that the operated appliance has not functioned properly.

14. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon a program executable by a computer for performing an information reception method comprising the steps of an information reception program, the information reception program comprising:

counting a number of times a calling signal is transmitted from a transmission system to a reception system received to determine a transmission count of the received calling signals;

accessing predetermined information stored in a memory, each piece of the predetermined information being associated with a transmission count of a calling signal; and

retrieving from the predetermined information stored in the memory a piece of information associated with the transmission count of the received calling signals;

wherein the predetermined information is appliance operation data for operating at least one household appliance in communication with the reception system receiver, and wherein, for each such appliance, the appliance operation data is indicative of the appliance's type and at least one operation of the appliance;

the reception system identifies one of the household appliances and one operation of the identified appliance based on the retrieved piece of information and operates the identified appliance according to the identified operation;

the reception system detects whether or not the operated appliance has functioned properly and provides an indication to the transmission system of whether or not the operated appliance has functioned properly;

when the reception system detects that the operated appliance has functioned properly, the reception system transmits to the transmission system a first number of calling signals indicating that the operated appliance has functioned properly; and

when the reception system detects that the operated appliance has not functioned properly, the reception system transmits to the transmission system a second number of calling signals indicating that the operated appliance has not functioned properly.

15. (currently amended) A transmitter, comprising:

a memory for storing predetermined information, each piece of the predetermined information being associated with a transmission count of a calling signal;

selecting means for selecting one piece of the information stored in said memory;

detecting means for detecting the transmission count of a calling signal associated with the selected piece of information; and

control means for controlling transmission of the calling signal to a reception system only a number of times that is equal to the detected transmission count;

wherein the predetermined information is appliance operation data for operating at least one household appliance at a remote location, and wherein, for each such appliance, the appliance operation data is indicative of the appliance's type and at least one operation of the appliance;

the reception system identifies one of the household appliances and one operation of the identified appliance based on the number of calling signals received at the reception system and operates the identified appliance according to the identified operation;

the reception system detects whether or not the operated appliance has functioned properly and provides an indication to the transmitter of whether or not the operated appliance has functioned properly;

when the reception system detects that the operated appliance has functioned properly, the reception system transmits to the transmitter a first number of calling signals indicating that the operated appliance has functioned properly; and

when the reception system detects that the operated appliance has not functioned properly, the reception system transmits to the transmitter a second number of calling signals indicating that the operated appliance has not functioned properly.

16. (currently amended) A receiver, comprising:

a memory for storing predetermined information, each piece of the predetermined information being associated with a transmission count of a calling signal;

counting means for counting a number of times a calling signal is transmitted from a transmission system to the receiver received to determine the transmission count of the received calling signals; and

means for retrieving from said memory a piece of information associated with the transmission count of the received calling signals;

wherein the predetermined information is appliance operation data for operating at least one household appliance in communication with the receiver, and wherein,

for each such appliance, the appliance operation data is indicative of the appliance's type and at least one operation of the appliance;

the receiver identifies one of the household appliances and one operation of the identified appliance based on the retrieved piece of information and operates the identified appliance according to the identified operation;

the receiver detects whether or not the operated appliance has functioned properly and provides an indication to the transmission system of whether or not the operated appliance has functioned properly;

when the receiver detects that the operated appliance has functioned properly, the receiver transmits to the transmission system a first number of calling signals indicating that the operated appliance has functioned properly; and

when the receiver detects that the operated appliance has not functioned properly, the receiver transmits to the transmission system a second number of calling signals indicating that the operated appliance has not functioned properly.

17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) The receiver according to claim 16, further comprising communication means in communication with said receiver, said communication means including appliance operation instructing means for operating the household appliance according to the retrieved appliance operation data.

19. (previously presented) The receiver according to claim 16, wherein counting comprises counting for n distinct instances, n being a positive integer, such that n transmission counts are generated, and wherein retrieving comprises retrieving a piece of information associated with

the n transmission counts the predetermined information is arranged in a data structure having n dimensions.

20. (currently amended) A transmitter-receiver, comprising:

a memory for storing predetermined information, each piece of the predetermined information being associated with a transmission count of a calling signal;

selecting means for selecting one piece of the predetermined information from said memory;

detecting means for detecting the transmission count of a calling signal associated with the selected piece of information;

control means for controlling transmission of the calling signal from a transmission system to a reception system only a number of times that is equal to the detected transmission count;

counting means for counting a number of times the calling signal is received to determine the transmission count of the received calling signals; and

means for retrieving from said memory a piece of information associated with the transmission count of the received calling signals;

wherein the predetermined information is appliance operation data for operating at least one household appliance in communication with the reception system receiver, and wherein, for each such appliance, the appliance operation data is indicative of the appliance's type and at least one operation of the appliance;

the reception system identifies one of the household appliances and one operation of the identified appliance based on the retrieved piece of information and operates the identified appliance according to the identified operation;

the reception system detects whether or not the operated appliance has functioned properly and provides an indication to the transmission system of whether or not the operated appliance has functioned properly;

when the reception system detects that the operated appliance has functioned properly, the reception system transmits to the transmission system a first number of calling signals indicating that the operated appliance has functioned properly; and

when the reception system detects that the operated appliance has not functioned properly, the reception system transmits to the transmission system a second number of calling signals indicating that the operated appliance has not functioned properly.

21. (original) The transmitter-receiver according to claim 20, further comprising:

display means for displaying the retrieved piece of information.

22. (currently amended) An information transmission/reception system, comprising:

a memory for storing predetermined information, each piece of the predetermined information being associated with a transmission count of a calling signal;

a transmitter having selecting means for selecting one piece of the predetermined information from said memory, detecting means for detecting the transmission count of a calling signal associated with the selected piece of information, and control means for controlling transmission of the calling signal only a number of times that is equal to the detected transmission count;

a receiver having counting means for counting a number of times the calling signal is received to determine the transmission count of the received calling signals, and

means for retrieving from said memory a piece of information associated with the transmission count of the received calling signals; and

an exchange station for transmitting to said receiver only the number of times that is equal to the transmission count of the calling signal in response to an instruction from said control means of said transmitter;

wherein the predetermined information is appliance operation data for operating at least one household appliance in communication with the receiver, and wherein, for each such appliance, the appliance operation data is indicative of the appliance's type and at least one operation of the appliance;

the receiver identifies one of the household appliances and one operation of the identified appliance based on the retrieved piece of information and operates the identified appliance according to the identified operation;

the receiver detects whether or not the operated appliance has functioned properly and provides an indication to the transmitter of whether or not the operated appliance has functioned properly;

when the receiver detects that the operated appliance has functioned properly, the receiver transmits to the transmitter a first number of calling signals indicating that the operated appliance has functioned properly; and

when the receiver detects that the operated appliance has not functioned properly, the receiver transmits to the transmitter a second number of calling signals indicating that the operated appliance has not functioned properly.

23. (canceled)

24. (previously presented) The information transmission/reception system according to claim 22, wherein said receiver has appliance operation instructing means for

operating the household appliance according to the retrieved appliance operation data.

25. (currently amended) An information transmission system, comprising:

a processor operable to execute instructions; and instructions, the instructions including accessing predetermined information stored in a memory, each piece of the predetermined information being associated with a transmission count of a calling signal;

selecting one piece of the information from the memory; detecting the transmission count of a calling signal associated with the selected piece of information; and

transmitting the calling signal to a reception system only a number of times that is equal to the detected transmission count;

wherein the predetermined information is appliance operation data for operating at least one household appliance at a remote location, and wherein, for each such appliance, the appliance operation data is indicative of the appliance's type and at least one operation of the appliance;

the reception system identifies one of the household appliances and one operation of the identified appliance based on the number of calling signals received at the reception system and operates the identified appliance according to the identified operation;

the reception system detects whether or not the operated appliance has functioned properly and provides an indication to the transmission system of whether or not the operated appliance has functioned properly;

when the reception system detects that the operated appliance has functioned properly, the reception system transmits to the transmission system a first number of

calling signals indicating that the operated appliance has functioned properly; and

when the reception system detects that the operated appliance has not functioned properly, the reception system transmits to the transmission system a second number of calling signals indicating that the operated appliance has not functioned properly.

26. (currently amended) An information reception system, comprising:

a processor operable to execute instructions; and instructions, the instructions including counting a number of times a calling signal is transmitted from a transmission system to the reception system received to determine a transmission count of the received calling signals;

accessing predetermined information stored in a memory, each piece of the predetermined information being associated with a transmission count of a calling signal; and

retrieving from the predetermined information stored in the memory a piece of information associated with the transmission count of the received calling signals;

wherein the predetermined information is appliance operation data for operating at least one household appliance in communication with the reception system—a receiver, and wherein, for each such appliance, the appliance operation data is indicative of the appliance's type and at least one operation of the appliance;

the reception system identifies one of the household appliances and one operation of the identified appliance based on the retrieved piece of information and operates the identified appliance according to the identified operation;

the reception system detects whether or not the operated appliance has functioned properly and provides an

indication to the transmission system of whether or not the operated appliance has functioned properly;

when the reception system detects that the operated appliance has functioned properly, the reception system transmits to the transmission system a first number of calling signals indicating that the operated appliance has functioned properly; and

when the reception system detects that the operated appliance has not functioned properly, the reception system transmits to the transmission system a second number of calling signals indicating that the operated appliance has not functioned properly.

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)